

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /007 W

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R 131115Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO AMCONSUL IBADAN

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

SECSTATE WASHDC 4403

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 4396

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, OTRA

SUBJECT: MISSION TRAVEL: MEA CONTROLS

REF: LAGOS 3107, 3224 (NOTAL), 3255 (NOTAL)

1. OVER THE PAST 4 WEEKS WE HAVE BEEN IN PERIODIC CONTACT WITH MEA RE DESIRE OF AMBASSADOR TO VISIT BENDEL STATE AND PLUES TO VISIT KANO. ALL DISCUSSION OF THE AMBASSADOR'S PROPOSED TRAVEL HAS BEEN ORAL AND MEA'S REACTION CONTINUES TO BE TO REQUEST THAT WE DEALY IN SUBMITTING A NOTE. WHILE WE HAVE SUBMITTED THE STANDARD NOTE IN PLUES' CASE, DISCUSSION OF IT HAS BEEN IN CONTEXT OF SEEKING EXCEPTION TO MARCH 10 VERBAL INTERDICTION OF "ALL" DIPLOM-ATIC TRAVEL. WE HAVE IN EFFECT BEEN PLACED BY MEA IN POSITION OF REQUESTING PERMISSION TO TRAVEL, A POSTURE MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN THE TRADITIONAL ONE OF SIMPLY NOTIFYING MEA OF INTENDED TRAVEL AND GOING UNLESS OBJECTION WAS RAISED.

2. IN ORDER TO PROVE POSSIBILITY OF RESUMING TRAVEL ON MORE NORMAL BASIS, WE WOULD LIKE TO RUN A TEST CASE NOT COMPLICATED BY EARL-IER DISCUSSIONS AND STRICTURES. WE PROPOSE TO NOTIFY MEA OF A TRIP TO WHICH THEY SHOULD NOT LOGICALLY BE ABLE TO OBJECT. WE WOULD THEN LET THE TRAVELER GO IF NO OBJECTION IS RAISED WITHIN THE TWO WEEK NOTIFICATION PERIOD. WE HAVE IMPORESSION THAT TRAVEL BY CONSULATE IBADAN MIGHT BE LESS SENSITIVE THAN EMBASSY OR KADUNA TRAVEL AND WOULD IN PARTICULAR WELCOME A PROPOSAL FROM IBADAN.

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3. WE EXCLUDE FROM THE ABOVE ALL COURIER TRIPS, VISITS FROM

CONSULATES TO EMBASSY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES AND FOR STRICTLY
IN-HOUSE CONSULTATION, AND PERSONAL OR RECREATIONAL TRAVEL NOT
INVOLVING CALLS ON NIGERIAN OFFICIALS. WE TAKE THE POSTION IT IS
NOT NECESSARY TO INFORM MEA OF SUCH TRAVEL. HOWEVER, FOR THE NEXT
SEVERAL WEEKS OR UNTIL OVERALL TRAVEL ISSUE IS CLARIFIED, WE COULD
WANT YOU TO INFORM US OF ANY TRAVEL OF TYPES LISTED IN THIS PARA.
EASUM

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